

TRIBUTE TO CAPT. JERRY  
LINENGER

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, on January 12, Capt. Jerry Linenger flew into orbit on the space shuttle *Atlantis* to begin a 5-month stay aboard the Russian Space Station Mir. This weekend, more than 130 days later, *Atlantis* is bringing Jerry Linenger home.

It is with no small amount of hometown pride that we note that Captain Linenger was born and raised in Eastpointe, MI, which is split between our two congressional districts. He attended East Detroit High School and went on to receive a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Naval Academy. Thereafter, he earned a number of advanced degrees, including a doctorate in medicine from Wayne State University in Detroit. He joined NASA in 1992 and flew a mission on the space shuttle *Discovery* 2 years later.

Captain Linenger is the fourth U.S. astronaut to live aboard the Mir station. All of these missions are important, both in terms of their contributions to science as well as to the advancement of United States/Russian cooperation in space. This particular mission has resonated with many people because of a series of letters Captain Linenger wrote to his 1-year-old son John, for him to read when he's older. Some of these letters have been published on NASA's Internet site with Captain Linenger's permission so the public could get a feel for his experience.

These letters describe Captain Linenger's day-to-day activities aboard Mir, his early memories of his grandparents and his own experience growing up in Michigan, his fondness for geography, and his enthusiasm concerning the exploration of space. The constant theme through all these letters is his affection for his wife and son. We would like to highlight one of these letters:

DEAR JOHN: Just received a note from Mommy—who said you've really been a great little boy lately. Says that you are at the age where you try to mimic everything anyone does. And that you're laughing lots. And everyone thinks you are so cute. Mommy agrees. Me too. You're the best, John.

But the big news was that you had [your] first trip to the corner park. Mommy says that the rocking horse was your favorite, but you also did okay on your first swing ride.

Alright, John. I can help you some on this. Some tips from your Dad.

Never get on a teeter totter with someone bigger than you.

No matter how hard you try, you will never succeed at doing a loop-the-loop on the swing.

For added speed down the slide, find an old waxed potato chip bag lying around (they are always blown against the fence nearby), sit on the bag, and then slide down. After a few times you'll really be moving, and all the girls will hold you in awe.

And talk about speed—your Daddy was really flying today! Whizzed across Isla de Chiloe, the crest of the Andes (three or four of the taller peaks still snowcapped), across Patagonia and out Golfo San Jorge in two minutes flat. Del Fuego in the distance. Clear. Spectacular.

Maybe someday you'll be a geography nut like your father. For now, just make sure you can find your way home from the park.

And John, pay serious attention to those books Mommy always reads you at night. Keep those eyes open—don't go fading off half way through the story like you usually do. If some day you go on a trip like I'm on, you'll be trying to draw on every bit of information, every bit of training, every morsel of practical stuff you've ever learned in your whole life in order to succeed.

Now that I think about it, they don't make waxed potato chip bags anymore. Scratch that idea, John. Maybe it'll be better to start off slowly and savor the ride all the way down. . . .

Love you John. Tell Mommy that Daddy sure was happy to get her note. And that I'm just fine.

DAD.

The last 5 months have been eventful and challenging ones for the crew of Mir as they have confronted a series of equipment breakdowns aboard the space station, including a fire, high temperatures due to a carbon dioxide removal system that overheated, leaking fumes, and broken oxygen generators. Even so, from these letters, there is little doubt that the biggest challenge Captain Linenger faced was being absent from his 14-month-old son.

We want to congratulate Captain Linenger on the successful completion of his mission and express our best wishes to him and his family.

THE CHINA MARKET ACCESS AND  
EXPORT OPPORTUNITIES ACT

**HON. DOUG BEREUTER**

OF NEBRASKA

**HON. THOMAS W. EWING**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a combination of legislation individually sponsored by myself (H.R. 35, the Fair Trade Opportunities Act) and Representative EWING (H.R. 941).

Removes China from the annual Most-Favored Nation [MFN] process when that country accedes to the World Trade Organization under an accession process that is supported by the United States.

After China's accession to the World Trade Organization, the President would no longer have to waive or certify that China meet Jackson-Vanik requirements. China would receive normal tariff status routinely unless either the Congress or the President used other existing authority to raise tariffs on China's goods.

Requires the President to utilize a strategic and flexible "snap-back" tariff if China either denies United States adequate trade benefits or fails to take adequate steps to become a member of the WTO.

On a one-time basis and within 6-months of the enactment of the legislation, the President would be required to determine if China is "not according adequate trade benefits"—defined in existing law—to the United States or if China is not taking adequate steps to become a WTO member. If the President makes such a finding, then the President shall impose snap-back tariffs on China 6-months after that determination. In imposing snap-back tariffs, the President has wide discretion to determine both the amount of the tariff and on which categories of products the snap-back tariffs will

be imposed. However, under no circumstances can the President exceed the legislation's snap-back tariff ceiling which is the pre-Uruguay round MFN tariff rates, for example, the column No. 1 tariff rates in effect on December 31, 1994.

A study by the Congressional Research Service estimates that if the President were to utilize his full snap-back authority, for example, on the top 25 Chinese exports to the United States—based on 1995 figures—an additional \$325 million in tariff revenue would be generated for the United States Treasury.—This estimate is not adjusted to reflect any downward demand for the product due to the increased tariff.

The President would be required to terminate the imposed snap-back tariffs on China on the date China becomes a WTO member or on the date the President determines that China is according adequate trade benefits to the United States or making taking significant steps to become a WTO member, whichever is earlier. The President would also be able to modify the snap-back tariffs for any reason as long as the appropriate congressional commitments are notified.

INTRODUCTION OF TWO  
ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 1997

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce two bills, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Accessibility Act of 1997 and a proposal to establish the St. Helena Island National Scenic Area.

It was President John F. Kennedy who had the infinite wisdom to propose legislation to create a land and water conservation fund. In 1964, Congress established, with bipartisan support, the land and water conservation fund [LWCF] for public acquisition of park and recreation lands for recreation planning, acquisition and development.

To assure that the LWCF received sufficient funds to carry out the original intent of the law, in 1968, Congress decided to set aside the revenue received from oil and gas leasing on the outer continental shelf [OCS] to fund conservation efforts. The idea was simple. One resource, oil and gas, would be exploited, but the revenues generated would be invested in another resource, the purchase of lands and waters. Up to \$900 million is collected for the use of the LWCF each year but Congress must first appropriate the money before it can be spent. Funds appropriated for the LWCF have been declining rapidly in recent years, with only \$138 million being spent for the program last year. The State grant portion of the LWCF was not funded at all in fiscal year 1996 or 1997. Furthermore, the House Budget Committee in the last Congress proposed a 5-year moratorium on land acquisition and a phase out of the entire LWCF program.

My legislation, the Land and Water Conservation Fund Accessibility Act, would remedy the funding problem by taking the entire LWCF off-budget thus ensuring that its funds will be spent for the purpose it was created. By doing this, the Federal land agencies would have more funds to better manage fragile habitat and endangered lands. This would